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Turtle tours
Visitors check out one of the residents of the Turtle Guardians' building at the HHOA Fish Hatchery in Haliburton on Saturday, Mar. 9. See page 5 for more.
/TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Paramedic supervisor cut from county budget

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County will eliminate a supervisor position at the paramedic service.

The move comes as the county tries to manage its 2024 operating and capital budget expenses.

Council heard during a special meeting March 6 that the cut will eliminate a little more than $120,000 from the spending plan. The FoodCycler Program will also be eliminated for a further decrease of $83,000.

Overall, the draft of the county's 2024 budget that was adopted by council has a 7.17 levy increase for 2024.

Earlier during the meeting, council saw $115,000 removed from the county's library budget.

"Those two decreases, along with the $115,000 from the overall library budget, brings the 2024 total levy to $23,261,957 and the tax rate increase to 6.17 per cent," said Andrea Robinson, the county's director of corporate services.

The county is also including a one per cent or $220,000 capital reserve levy. That's the one per cent that brings the levy to 7.17 per cent.

"Is that taking into account the impact growth?" said Councillor Bob Carter, who is the mayor of Minden Hills.

see SEVERAL page 3

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Saturday strummin'

Musicians from near and far came to the Highlands to participate in the Haliburton County Folk Society's Winter Folk Camp at Camp Wanakita on Mar. 2 and 3, with a concert featuring Katherine Wheatley, Jane Lewis, and Eve Goldberg on the Saturday. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Notice of Sewage Service Rates By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 26, 2024 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2023-36, being a by-law to impose fees and charges for the provision of Communal Sewage Services. This amendment will increase the Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) user fee and the metered Sewage Service Rate effective April 1, 2024.

Notice of Comprehensive Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 26, 2024 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2023-84, being a by-law to impose fees and charges. This amendment will reflect the addition of the following new fees:

1. A By-Law Enforcement Re-Inspection Fee;
2. Fee for the supply of Smoke and/or CO Alarms to non-compliant buildings;
3. Cost recovery for the cleaning, repair or replacement of Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a result of a response; and
4. A License of Occupation/Encroachment Agreement Fee for Short Term Rentals.

This amendment will also reflect fees increases for the Memorial Bench and Tree Program and Burning Permits.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on https://www.dysartetal.ca/

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HHHS begins construction

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

On Mar. 4th, the *Echo* was offered a sneak peak at the new CT scanner at HHHS.

As shown in the pictures, construction is well under way for the new CT scanner. The CT scanner and mammography unit are welcomed additions to HHHS.

The renovations are underway by Quinan Construction, a construction company based out of Orillia.

"We are hoping summer, it will be open. That's the plan," said Veronica Nelson, president and CEO of HHHS.

This CT scanner, made by Siemens Healthineers, will be the only public CT scanner in all of Haliburton County.

"CT coming to HHHS is truly a game changer in supporting our local and visiting population. CT has quickly become the new standard of care – allowing physicians to leverage the full breadth of their toolkit, reserving EMS services for emergencies, and encouraging new talent to consider HHHS. This is such an exciting moment for our hospital and our community," said Jennifer Burns, Chief Networking executive.

Mammography is the most effective way to detect breast cancer. This machine will service over 6000 women in the area to detect cancers, a decision supported by Cancer Care Ontario.

Pictured right: Veronica Nelson, left, and Melanie Wong, right, pose near some tools that are used in the construction of the new CT scanning facilities at Haliburton Highlands Health Services. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Several days will be left without supervisor, says chief

from page 1

"Yes," Robinson said.

Coun. Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Dysart, went on-record as agreeing with the budget with the exception of the library spending cut.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said FoodCycler composting program was a means of spending in order to realize greater savings later on. It was to change people's mindset about waste management in the long run.

"For me the end goal has savings attributed to it, which exceed the savings we would make by pulling it out of the budget this year," Dailloux said.

"Those are not savings for the county, though," said Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands. "They're lower tier savings."

"They're savings for the taxpayer," Dailloux said. "Ultimately, it's the same tax bill."

Council reviewed the first draft of the 2024 budget on Jan. 24. The opening salvo included a total levy of $23,621,264 which resulted in a 7.81 per cent tax rate increase plus the creation of a one per cent or $220,000 dedicated capital reserve levy.

After tasking staff to do a final review of department budget items along with having updated information available, such as insurance renewal and policing board obligations, a further net $41,152 in savings was applied.

The budget's second draft represented a total levy of $23,580,112.34 which resulted in a tax rate increase of 7.62 per cent plus the one per cent or $220,000 dedicated capital reserve levy.

Dailloux asked what impact will one less supervisor have on Haliburton County Paramedic Service staff.

The county has two supervisors at the emergency medical service.

Tim Waite, the chief paramedic and the service's director, said four supervisors are ideally required for the 24-hour service. Two supervisors would provide 12-hours a day for seven days a week, with the exception of vacation and sick time.

"With just one, it means that there will be several days without a supervisor at all for anytime during the day," Waite said. "It does add the additional on-call time for myself and management."

They will assume on-call duties one week, every three weeks.

"Those weeks it's like working 24-hours a day for seven days," he said. "We will have to be very creative in how we can staff one supervisor."

"It sucks that we have to cut things out of the budget," Carter said. "There was not many other places to cut."

"True enough," Danielsen said.

"A large portion of the budget is wages and, of course, we're in negotiations right now," Carter said. "So just to feel reassured that the number in our budget will be sufficient to cover off any finalized negotiations."

"That is covered in this budget," said Gary Dyke, the county's CAO.

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County talks Dorset library branch closure

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The difference a budget's third draft makes could be as much as $34,000.

The Haliburton County Public Library reduced its 2024 budget request by $34,260. The second draft of its budget had a county tax request of $1,349,061. That was whittled down to $1,314,801 and presented to the upper tier council during a budget meeting March 6.

That's a 6.5 per cent increase over last year's tax levy, or an extra $80,298 over 2023.

Council agreed after much debate to cap the library's levy at $1.2-million, which includes a requested cut of $115,000.

Andrea Brown, the CEO and chief librarian, said there were a number of items that had been axed from the year's spending plan.

The library reduced its budget for books by $3,000. Committee fees were removed to save another $3,000, and the PressReader subscription won't be renewed this fall. That's good for $7,000 in the purse.

Library reserve funds as opposed to operational funds will be used for air filter replacements for small branches at a cost of $2,000, iPad replacements and tech items for $6,500, and the library will pause the automatic transfer to library reserves for IT asset management plan for $6,000.

"I know that county council is being asked to make very decisions this year," Brown said. "It's a really tough budget year and I know that many people in our community are struggling, struggling to pay bills.

"I completely understand the need to not increase taxes."

She said options to realize savings would include not opening the Dorset branch and closing the Minden Hills and Dysart branches for one day a week.

"Another example would be shutting down all branches for over three months," Brown said. "Another example of what $115,000 would look like would be to not buy any additional books or movies or eBooks, to cancel our subscriptions that we have."

That's a substantial amount of money, even though services provided by the library can't really be quantified.

"We're not only lending out books," she said. "We're doing all sorts of other things."

Warden Liz Danielsen, who is also the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she's disappointed to hear the library's Dorset branch is to be cut as a cost-saving measures.

That's the branch to be located in the Dorset Recreation Centre when it reopens after renovations.

"Given the fact that every other library, every other municipality receives 48 to 60 hours of library service and Algonquin Highlands receives 12 (hours)," Danielsen said. "That is not right. That is just not right."

"We're excited about Dorset and we really want the branch to open," Brown said. "It would be hard decisions no matter where in the county they (cuts) would happen."

"Just noted that it was at the top of your list," Danielsen said.

Councillor Walt McKechnie, who is Dysart's deputy mayor, said nobody wants to shutter library branches. But difficult choices have to be made.

"When you're an elected official, you're there to represent everyone in your municipality and everyone in the county," McKechnie said.

Andrea Robinson, the county's director of corporate services, said the current draft budget would require an addition of $24,000 to bring it up to the 2023 level. That means a $1.23-million budget for 2024.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said money has been taken from environmental initiatives and there could be cuts to the county's paramedic service. His own municipality is in a difficult financial position and there's the prospect of a high tax increase.

But the library has accumulated a financial reserve of more than $200,000 over the last number of years, he said.

"We've looked at every nickel and dime across the county to come up with a reasonable tax increase," Carter said.

Perhaps the library's reserve fund speaks to it having gotten more money than it needed, he said.

"We need to be looking at what is fair," Carter said.

Libraries contribute to a community's wellbeing, he said. But, if it came down to a choice of budgetary priorities, Carter said he'd choose an ambulance.

"These are the tough trade-offs that we have to make," he said.

"Looking at the two of them (services) I would agree that one is much more important than the other," Danielsen said in favour of the county's paramedic service.

Coun. Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Dysart, said the possibility of closing library branches and not opening the Dorset location is unacceptable. But, at the end of the day, the library service is asked to find $90,000 to cut from its final budget.

"Saving a couple of boxes of paper clips is not going to solve the problem," Ryall said. "You're going to have to make some significant cuts to do that."

The library budget was the same amount last year, the $1.234-million.

The library's request for 2024 means a 6.5 per cent levy increase. Ryall wanted to know what the average request is for other county departments.

"Are they in that same ballpark?" he said. "If they are, something's king of cock-eyed because our overall levy is going to be more than seven (per cent).

"Somebody has to be higher than 6.5 (per cent), even if some are less."

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said he doesn't believe an exact percentage increase is a relative number for such an argument. Public Works, the IT Department, and any other county group have varied needs that affects budget requests differently.

The prioritization of spending has less to do with the amount of money being requested than the overall valuation, he said. Basically, that means what is a department's core service and how much does it cost to deliver that core service?

"How do I get to an acceptable number without a reduction in service?" Dyke said.

Ryall said he believes the library service is a core service.

"To not have a library board operational does not make sense," Ryall said. "At the same time, a poorly functioning library service is worse than none at all."

The library has about $215,000 in its reserve fund.

"What exactly are library reserves saved for?" said Coun. Lisa Schell, the deputy mayor of Minden Hills. "If something with the plumbing or something breaks at the library, the county fixes that. That's not going to come out of the reserves of the library."

She suggested the library board dip into its reserve fund to cover some of the budget request.

"This is our rainy day and I think it's time, possibly, to use some reserves for this," Schell said.

Danielsen said every department and each of the lower tier municipalities have experienced cost increases. The library reserve fund has always been used to cover capital needs, she said.

"And the only capital purchases that they've really had to make has been photocopiers," she said.

"To me, taking it out of the reserve is for short-term gain and maybe for long-term pain," said Coun. Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor.

He suggested the library's IT needs be serviced by the county's IT Department. That would eliminate a position at the library.

"The integrity of the budget is what it is," Ryall said. "It ain't pretty. It's as ugly as they come. But at the end of the day it's what it is and I am not in favour of using reserve money for operation costs."

He said steps need to be taken this year to address required cuts. Otherwise, the county could face a levy increase of eight or nine per cent next year if nothing is done this year.

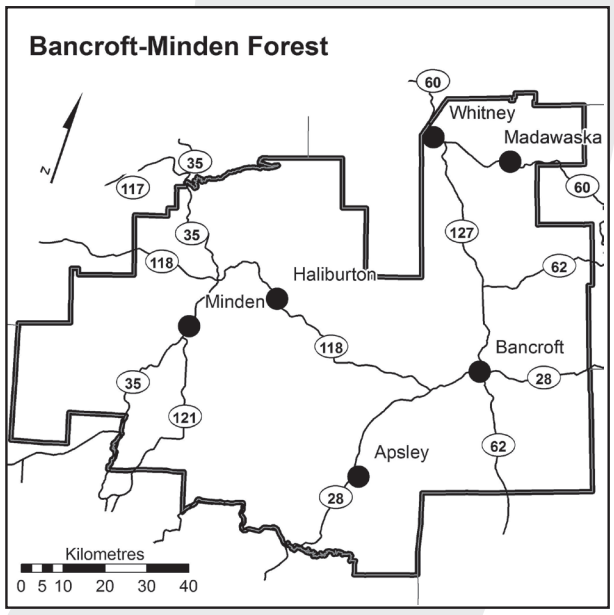
"I look at it from the point of view that if you do not properly main-

see page 5

INSPECTION

Inspection of 2024 – 2025 Annual Work Schedule for Bancroft-Minden Forest

The April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Bancroft-Minden Forest** is available for public viewing by contacting the **Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC)**, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning **March 17, 2024** and for the one-year duration of the AWS.



Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

BMFC is responsible for tree planting on the Bancroft-Minden Forest. Please contact the Forest Company listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the rules for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please visit: ontario.ca/CrownLandWood. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF staff listed below:

Dimitrii Boyko, R.P.F.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Peterborough-Bancroft District 106 Monck Street
P.O. Box 500
Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0
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e-mail: dimitrii.boyko@ontario.ca

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Bancroft Minden Forest Company
51 Hastings Street North Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0
tel: 613-223-6890
e-mail: julie@bmfci.ca

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

ontario.ca/forestmanagement

Ontario

Public Health asks for wariness of measles this March break

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Students are out of the classrooms this week and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR District Health Unit) is advising residents to be cautious traveling this March break as cases of measles continue to rise throughout Ontario and other countries.

Currently, there are four active cases of measles in Ontario and reports of measle cases in two additional provinces.

National monitoring of cases gets reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada who issues weekly surveillance reports and monitoring maps for measles and rubella in Canada.

While measles has been eliminated in Canada, outbreaks can happen when unvaccinated individuals travel to and return from other countries where measles is circulating.

Most of these cases involve unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children. However, a non-travel, vaccinated measles case has been reported in Ontario.

According to Health Canada, only 79 per cent of the population has been vaccinated for measles.

Measles is a highly contagious virus spread through coughing and sneezing that can live for up to two hours in the air. Symptoms of measles include fever, a red blotchy rash, red watery eyes, and white spots in the mouth.

Measles is prevented by vaccination, and Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule includes two doses of the highly effective measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines for children before the age of seven years.

"Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, some children have had delays of their routine childhood immunizations, which includes the MMR vaccination, and leaves them at risk of contracting measles," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and CEO at the HKPR District Health Unit.

"With the rise in measles cases, we'd like to remind and encourage people to ensure all your immunizations are up to date, including the MMR vaccine,

particularly before traveling internationally this March break."

Due to the increased risk of exposure when travelling internationally, public health officials recommend travelers be aware of the signs and symptoms of measles. Eligible people who are not up to date with their measles vaccination should get a dose of the MMR vaccine. Those eligible people are infants six to 11 months who will be travelling, and any child who missed their first and/or second dose of the MMR vaccine. Adults 18 years old and older who have previously received one dose of MMR vaccine should get a second jab if they are health care workers, post-secondary students, planning to travel, or based on their doctor's recommendation.

"No matter where you plan to travel, make sure you check the travel health notices page for your destination to ensure you can be prepared and protected from vaccine-preventable diseases," Bocking said.

"It is important to monitor your health before, during, and after your trip. By planning ahead and ensuring you and your children are fully vaccinated, you can enjoy your vacation knowing you all have the best protection.

from page 4

tain it, it will break," Ryall said. "If it breaks, it has

absolutely no value."

McKechnie said dipping into the library's reserve money would be a Band-aid solution when expenses next year will increase another 10 or 15 per cent.

"They have $1.2-million for salaries right now," he said. "Restructure it. Right now we have to start looking at a lot of these areas."

Robinson said the county is finalizing its year-end tally for 2023 and it looks as if the library will realize a surplus of about $70,000 that will be added to the reserve.

"That's the missing piece," said Danielsen.

March Break discoveries

The Turtle Guardians are offering two more Turtle Tours this week for visitors to be able to get up close with their snakes and turtles and to learn more about them. The Turtle Tours will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 13 and Friday, Mar. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

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Snow melts down rocks on an Algonquin Highlands pond. By Tammy Nash

Editorial

Catching a break

vivian collings

WE MADE IT.

Today, the sun rose at 7:31 a.m. It'll set at 7:16 tonight.

And, we got to see it rise *and* set because there isn't a single cloud to eclipse it's cheerful light.

The clock in my car shows the correct hour again for the first time in five months (it's hard to change and right for over half the year, anyway).

I can't even complain about "losing" an hour of the day on Sunday because all is right in the world.

Wednesday will be 12°C.

Itchy eyes mean blossoms will soon start poking through the ground while buds pop on branches.

I've already seen skunks romping through backyards. Bears will be coming out of their dens within a month.

Migrating birds are on their way back from their vacations in the south.

The ice slowly melting away.

This glorious week is March Break for our school board.

St. Patrick's Day perfectly wraps it all up in a lucky green ribbon on Sunday.

What more could we ask for?

A rough winter for typical tourism activities is almost in the rear-view mirror.

Lots of businesses are gearing up for a busy summer, making plans and ordering stock.

It really is the perfect time to pause, take a break, and reset.

The key word: break.

We all deserve it.

But on weeks like this, I don't think breaks should just mean resting.

It's the time to come alive again after hunkering down for winter.

It might be the one of the only times between now and summer craziness to get out and do fun things with family and friends.

So many places in the county have a full week of activities for kids and families.

The Haliburton County Public Library's lineup includes a scavenger hunt at each branch where participants have the chance to win a sweet treat after finding all the items on their list in the library.

This will go on for the whole month of March.

Another is their Wild About Wildflowers and Herbs program for young gardeners to learn how to grow a garden starting from seeds.

They'll be playing an interactive screening of Finding Nemo with scripts and props included.

For dates, times, and to register for these or any of their other programs, visit HCPL's website: www.haliburtonlibrary.ca/Programs-Events.

Sir Sam's Ski/Bike has a fun-filled week for the last of the season, too.

They have face painting and balloon animals daily, a Lumberjack Day, Carnival Day, kids' games, Sir Sam's Got Talent Show, St. Paddy's Day party, and live music.

Details can be found at www.sirsams.ca.

The My Haliburton Highlands online calendar is always a great place to go to see what's happening around the county: myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening.

It features tons of live music and parties happening this weekend.

So, definitely take a break, but make sure it's a fun one.

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Our road

Down sharon lynch

Dirty dreams

WHERE DOES it all come from? Bev looked down at the floor with dismay. She was not a clean freak but this time of year was probably her least favourite. Dirt, mud and sand were everywhere and she couldn't seem to get ahead of it. She tracked it in from outdoors. The dogs did the same. Even the cat, fussy little thing that she was, brought the stuff in on those sunny days when she ventured outside.

After sweeping up yet another small pile of sand by the back door, Bev sighed, slipped into her rubber boots and headed out. It was another beautiful, almost-spring day. A blue dome touched the tree tops swaying in the gentle breeze. Despite her fight with the mess she had to admit there was a lot to like about the season.

It was a hopeful time with much to look forward to. Warming, lengthening daylight; the return of the songbirds; delicate green shoots poking optimistically through the mud and muck. So Bev couldn't stay irritated for long once she was outside.

There were tree branches on the ground she wanted to haul over to the fire pit. Part of the woodpile had fallen over and needed re-piling. And the deer had broken a section of fencing so that had to be repaired.

The warm sun on her face almost cancelled out the slime beneath her feet. Almost. For it was indeed slime. The snow had slid down the porch roof onto the driveway. She assumed most of the moisture had then seeped into the ground because now that section of the driveway was temporarily off-limits. Deep soft ruts were embedded into the ground where the day before she had made the mistake of driving over the soft spot. She'll have to smooth them out with a rake or shovel once the ground was drier.

But for now, the ground was free to grab anything, including her boots. Indeed at the moment the driveway had a firm hold on her left foot. Bev steadied herself and tried to pull her foot out of the mud. Despite a determined sucking sound that seemed to say 'I'm not letting you go', she was able to free her foot. But the boot didn't follow. Losing her balance, she fell backwards, landing on her backside in the soft, cold mud.

She sat there in disbelief. After extricating herself from the cold sticky dirt, Bev grabbed her partially submerged boot and stepped back onto firmer, drier ground.

Now what? Should she go back indoors and change or carry on? While the mud was cold, the sun was warm and Bev wanted to get the outdoor chores done and over with. So after trying to shake as much muck as she could from her boot and clothes, she stuffed her foot back into her boot, side-stepped the rest of the driveway, and carried on.

In no time the muddy clothes were more dirt than slime and the sun continued to shine brightly. Bev told herself she had made the right decision by not running back inside to change. After all – what was a little dirt, easily washed off, when a day such as today was so precious? Humming softly, she began gathering up the broken branches and dragging them into a pile by the fire pit.

It was then that she heard a vehicle and looked up to see her neighbour Dennis heading her way. Quickly jogging over to the side of the road, she waved for him to stop, pointing to the driveway and shaking her head.

He waved in acknowledgement and stepped out of the truck. Immediately Dennis sank in mud almost up to this waist. He had stepped into a hidden pit of ooze. Bev was shocked and then – she woke up.

The bedside alarm was going off as she pulled herself out of sleep. What a dream! she thought. Knowing it was morning by the light in the room, Bev turned to look out the bedroom window. That's when she saw the blizzard.

points of view

Worst foot forward

steve galea

Loon Tales

I'M NOT a gambling man, but if I were, I wouldn't bet against me having a pair of socks that do not have holes in them.

After all, I have a dog who loves me.

Many people believe that our long friendship with dogs began when they discovered that we disposed of food scraps around the fire. From that point on, the story goes, ancient humans began to feed them, which emboldened our canine friends, until one day, we were domesticated, and we formed a beneficial partnership.

We fed the dogs. They reciprocated by barking or growling if anything was approaching our fires.

That's a cute theory. But, honestly, I think they just came for our socks.

Dogs are drawn to socks because socks collect the scents they love.

I cannot remember a single day when I have not seen my dog Rosie slinking by me without at least one of my socks in her mouth. And while it is annoying, it tugged at my heartstrings, too. It showed me that Rosie wants to have a little keepsake that reminds her of me throughout the day.

Which is why I was so alarmed two days ago.

I was sitting in the living room reading and enjoying my first coffee of the day, when Rosie descended the stairs and walked by, as usual with a pair of socks, pilfered from a laundry basket. But this time, they were pink floral socks – and not mine either.

And that was when Jenn yelled, "Rosie has my socks!"

Not only that. Rosie was flaunting them. By the time I looked back to her, she was laying in her dog bed, nuzzling them – I suspect daydreaming about some tawdry dog fantasy, like being in a crowded podiatrist's office.

"It's nothing," I told myself. "Rosie probably just has a cold and can't tell the difference."

But deep down, I knew otherwise. Suddenly, all those repressed insecurities came bubbling to the surface.

"Maybe, all this daily bathing has made my feet smell too good," I thought.

And I won't lie. When Rosie sniffed the air and wagged her tail furiously as Jenn approached with a flirty pair of toe socks, I knew I had to up my game.

But I have also been with Jenn long enough to know this had to be done subtly.

"Boy, your feet must stink," I said.

"What?!" she replied, while shooting me a look that told me this was perhaps not subtle enough.

"Oh no," I said. "I wasn't speaking to you! I was just imagining what I would say to prospective customers, if I was a Dr. Scholl's salesperson…"

It was a close call, but it threw her off the scent.

Meanwhile, Rosie dropped Jenn's socks, which made me happy. But then she walked up to Jenn, curled up at her feet, and – I swear – drew in a deep breath and smiled contentedly.

I'm normally not the jealous type, but this was too much.

So, I immediately went upstairs and returned with Jenn's most perfumy foot massage cream and a towel.

"To what do I owe this pleasure," Jenn said with a smile.

"No reason," I replied. "Let me know when you are finished."

Meanwhile, I did Jenn's laundry and decided I'd wear the same set of socks two days in a row, and then wear last summer's water shoes for a bit.

It worked like a charm. This morning, Rosie nuzzled at my feet. Which just goes to show, sometimes, it pays to work on your socks appeal.

pic of the past

Vehicular traffic on Haliburton's unpaved main street was light when this photo was taken in the early 1920s. This shot, looking west on Highland Street shows George Earle's store, now the Boatwerks, at the left with the awning advertising "boots and shoes." In the distance, behind the third car, is the Lucas family's Grand Central Hotel. The two buildings on the right still stand today as Bernstein's Store and McKecks Place. Thanks to the Haliburton Highlands Museum for the loan of this postcard.

letters to the editor

No cuts to Ukraine aid

Dear Editor,

Mr. Poilievre, and what has become the Regressive Conservative Party, are in favour of cutting Canada's aid to Ukraine.

Does anyone remember how this world stood by while Hitler invaded and devastated Poland?

Russia and Canada are in dispute over land claims now. Do we remember why the Dew Line was built?

As Putin and Trump, Poilievre too seems to have a great thirst for undisputed power. This is scary, particularly as our planet burns.

Politicians of every stripe should not be only interested in their own job and personal and party power - good politicians are good people who work as a team across party lines to find solutions for all, to save our planet and all its inhabitants. Do we remember that this is how Canada got Universal Healthcare (CCF/NDP Tommy Douglas working with the Liberal government of the day)? And most recently (again thanks to the NDP and Liberals) achieve Canada's Dental Plan and newly introduced PharmaCare bill.

Using fear, misinformation and anger to create and fuel division does not belong in politics, does not protect democracy and will not serve to protect our planet or fix what is broken in our country, or in our world.

Working together, finding common ground and building joint solutions - is what governing is about - it is what most of us want for our families, our communities, our planet.

The value of learning from history is to help prevent us from repeating mistakes and committing atrocities. It is also a very valuable roadmap for continuing to build on accomplishments toward achieving an equitable society and healthier planet.

Fred Phipps
Haliburton

ATAC Town Hall Meeting

On Thursday March, 21 from 4 - 6:30 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion, please join us as we:
- Share the results of our ATAC Community Survey
- Create a plan for next steps - What? How? Who?

Light refreshments are provided. Please RSVP by Monday, March 18.
Register on Facebook, or for more info contact agingtogetherhc@gmail.com.

Submitted

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

U-Links celebrates 25 years with logo design contest

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

In 1987, Professor Tom Whillans of the Environmental Studies Program and Professor John Wadland of Canadian Studies at Trent University were enraptured by the Brundtland Commission's report Our Common Future. The report's message of 'Think Globally Act Locally' perfectly meshed with the duo's interest in the theory of bioregionalism.

When first looking for a location for U-Links, the pair looked at the Peterborough area to service the Trent-Severn water system. They decided that they wanted to fixate themselves near the headwaters of the Trent Severn in Haliburton County.

Wadland and Whillans's course debuted in 1989 and situated themselves on Kushog Lake in Algonquin Highlands. After years of successfully facilitating connections between community and students, Wadland and Whillans pushed for the creation of a community-based committee in Haliburton County. The U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research formed in 1999 under the Haliburton County Community Co-operative, an organization that focused on economic development and community capacity in the surrounding areas.

U-Links has successfully connected community members of Haliburton County with researchers from Trent University, Fleming College, and other research institutions.

Community members have been bringing their research questions for 25 years.

As the only rural-based research centre in North America, U-Links offers a unique opportunity to bank the knowledge of the local community and to further advance research in a variety of disciplines.

Currently, around 80 per cent of the problems revolve around the environment and 20 per cent are in the social and business areas, says Dr. Andrew Gordon, Director of U-Links.

"You get your problem solved and it's a great learning experience," said Gordon.

This process is different from traditional academic research as a premade problem is brought from the community to researchers, says Gordon.

Andrew Gordon is no stranger to the area. "I grew up in the Dorset area," said Gordon. Gordon's father worked for the Frost Centre and Gordon also did Forestry school there, before becoming a professor at the University of Guelph for 32 years.

"We like to work with people who are interested in doing research," explained Jim Blake. "It comes from the community, for the community."

U-Links' online database contains over 900 research projects ranging from topics such as apple trees in Haliburton County, benthic invertebrate populations in Haliburton's water systems, and a study on transportation needs.

Research conducted with U-Links is fed to larger datasets throughout the province and country, said Blake.

"All the students getting research experience are facilitating the congregation of data," said Blake.

For a lot of students, it is their first time getting hands-on research experience that also benefits the local community, says Blake.

A student measures the circumference of a tree for the Trent Biomonitoring Class and Dahl Forest Monitoring for HHLT. /Photo credit: Joshua Solti

Around a third of funding comes from Trent University, and the remaining funds come from private donations, organizations that benefit from research conducted, municipal and county funding, and grants.

Currently, U-Links is seeking submissions for a logo that represents their 25th anniversary. The U-Links website states:

"The Logo should clearly indicate U-Links 25th Anniversary but other than that designers are free to integrate into the logo, themes that address learning, education, students, local issues and Haliburton County. There is no restriction on the use of colour or design patterns. The only request is that it can be printed in black and white or in colour."

Submissions from local artists will be accepted until Mar. 15.

A $75 gift certificate to Curry's art supplies will be awarded to the artist of the chosen submission. More details can be found on their website.

New roads and highways to keep people moving.
We're driving Ontario's economy forward by investing $28 billion in roads and highways.
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Sir Sam's owners open hill to community investors

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Sir Sam's is giving community members the opportunity to own a piece of their iconic landmark in Haliburton since 1965.

The current owners are looking for investors, going along with their three-year plan for the hill.

"When we bought it, we put a three-season plan in place to basically modernize the hill and add some new features. We're now at the end of our third season," Wilkinson said. "What we want to do is make it a community hill, so we're putting the invitation out to people in the community who are interested in owning a piece of the hill and having a good return on investment."

After retiring three years ago, Wilkinson knew he wanted to move to Haliburton County with his family, the place they had cottaged at for 15 years.

"We love everything about cottage country. We love the quiet, the people, the community," Wilkinson said.

When Sir Sam's went up for sale in 2021, they knew it would be an opportunity to preserve a place special to so many who live in and visit the Highlands.

"I re-learned to ski here at the hill, my kids learned to ski here, so it was always a special place for us. It was either we buy it completely or not at all, so we decided to go for it."

Wilkinson is now committed to keeping a 20 per cent ownership stake.

"The one key thing was to make the hill sustainable financially. It jut makes the hill viable and allows for us to invest in different projects going forward," he said.

Sir Sam's went through some big changes in the last three years including gaining a restaurant, event and wedding centre, and a Delancey Sports outpost.

"The ski industry is changing. Most ski hills need to look to be active at least three seasons of the year to make sure they're profitable and can sustain the employment of their people, Wilkinson said. "We've been able to put those plans in place, and now others get a share in it."

A general manager will be hired in the early summer to oversee operations.

The manager will be in contact with the ownership group through an executive board made up of four or five owners.

Wilkinson said new owners will receive an annual dividend and payout of income based on their ownership and determined by the committee.

The equity offering is being completed in five per cent blocks.

Wilkinson said the group will likely set up a reserve to fund ongoing projects and new equipment.

A lookout tower is also in the works and is expected to be complete within a couple of years.

"The website for the Dorset Tower talks about getting 60,000 visits a year. We're hoping to get those people to make a right turn on the 118 from 35 and come and spend their time here in the county. Our view is just spectacular," Wilkinson said.

Spring Splash will take place on Mar. 23 this year.

"It's just an awesome annual tradition where we build an 80 foot pond at the bottom of the hill and invite guests to try and ski or board over the pond. Typically if we get a nice afternoon, we just pack the deck and have a year-end celebration," Wilkinson said.

Owner of Sir Sam's Ski/Ride Doug Wilkinson is opening the business up to investors after operating and making additions to the hill for the past three years. /FILE

Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their favourite costumes.

The hill also has a full week of fun planned for March Break. Visit www.sirsams.ca for the full line up.

Their mountain biking season will likely begin on the May long weekend, weather depending.

Textile Recycling

Along with donating gently used clothing to the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store and the SIRCH Community Services' Thrift Warehouse, Dysart ratepayers can drop off textiles for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

Place textiles in clear bags to help keep materials dry.

☑ Items you wear "head to foot" (including undergarments)
Clothes (including undergarments and socks), Hats, Scarves, Ties, Jackets, Coats, Belts, Shoes (including single shoes), Jewelry, Purses, Backpacks)

Single and paired shoes accepted

☑ Bedding, Blankets. Curtains, Fabric, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Towels

Success! In 2023, Dysart collected 20.85 metric tonnes (45,969 lbs) of textiles for recycling!

☑ While textiles should be clean, our textile recycling program will also accept torn, worn out, stained or scrap textiles.

Municipality of Dysart et al

Download our free mobile app
Haliburton County Waste Wizard
App Store | Google Play

www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

THANK YOU!
Donors,Volunteers and Participants

Without your continued support, this fun event for the Centre would not be possible!

GET IT online
www.haliburtonecho.ca
www.mindentimes.ca

Game one win

The Huskies secured their first playoff win at home against the Cobourg Cougars on Saturday, Mar. 9 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The boys in blue won 3-2 in overtime with team captain Patrick Saini scoring the game-winning goal. For the Huskies' full playoff schedule, visit haliburtoncountyhuskies.ojhl.ca/stats/schedule/17. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Nearly $2,800 raised for Wilberforce Elementary School food program

MIKE RILEY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A couple of residents of Benoir Lake raised $2,780 from a RADAR snowmobile race on Feb. 18 and decided to donate it to Wilberforce Elementary School's food program. Angelo Bortolazzo and Brandi Loverock donated the money and had a free barbecue for the school's kids on Feb. 27, helped by the culinary talents and time of AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet owner Andrea McKenzie.

Sandra MacDonald, WES's secretary, reached out to *The Haliburton Echo* about this donation by Bortolazzo and Loverock to their food program on Feb. 27, along with the free barbecue they were having for the students. They had a RADAR snowmobile run on Benoir Lake with 600 people in attendance and with a 50/50 draw and donations raised the $2,780. McKenzie, owner of AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet (www.ampmoutdoorgourmet.wixsite.com), also a resident of Benoir Lake whose sons are at WES donated her time, culinary expertise and the food products to the barbecue.

"I'm on the lake and everybody, friends and customers, got together to do this," she says.

MacDonald thought it was going great on Feb. 27 at the barbecue and said she thought it was cool for them to give the school a call to let them know they were going to do this.

"So, it's going to make a big difference for our local food program. We provide breakfast and lunch everyday and those are expensive programs to run. So, it's a really big help. It really helps our students come to school regularly with both breakfast and lunch available to them," she says.

Loverock says that she and Bortolazzo's son Ryder used to come to WES and they knew they had a food program.

"We phoned the school to see if they were in need of a donation and they said yes," she says.

For more information on the WES's food program or to make a donation, contact MacDonald at 705-448-2421, ext. 77010 or at Sandra.macdonald@tldsb.on.ca.

WES teacher Jacob Findeis told *The Haliburton Echo* that he thought that the donation and the barbecue for the kids was awesome and thought it was nice to get the money and feel its impact for a long time.

"I think it speaks to the sense of community that Sandy and the school have worked hard to earn the trust from the community and continue to bring people out and creating that sense of community. It comes back and shows itself in these kinds of ways when a former student's family says we'd still like to support you," he says. "I couldn't be prouder, couldn't be happier."

Top Photo: Wilberforce Elementary School staff and students after the free barbecue put on by Benoir Lake residents Angelo Bortolazzo, Brandi Loverock and Andrea McKenzie, owner of AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet. Bortolazzo and Loverock donated $2,780 to the school's food program.

Middle Photo: Andrea McKenzie, owner of AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet and Angelo Bortolazzo, who donated $2,780 to Wilberforce Elementary School's food program with his partner Brandi Loverock, barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids.

Left Photo: Brandi Loverock, who donated $2,780 to Wilberforce Elementary School's food program with partner Angelo Bortolazzo, handing out burgers and hot dogs. /MIKE RILEY Staff

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Notice
(Applicant – Stoughton)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Billings Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 32 Concession 7, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan 19R-10928 made by **Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd., completed June 17, 2019.**

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 12th day of March, 2024.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

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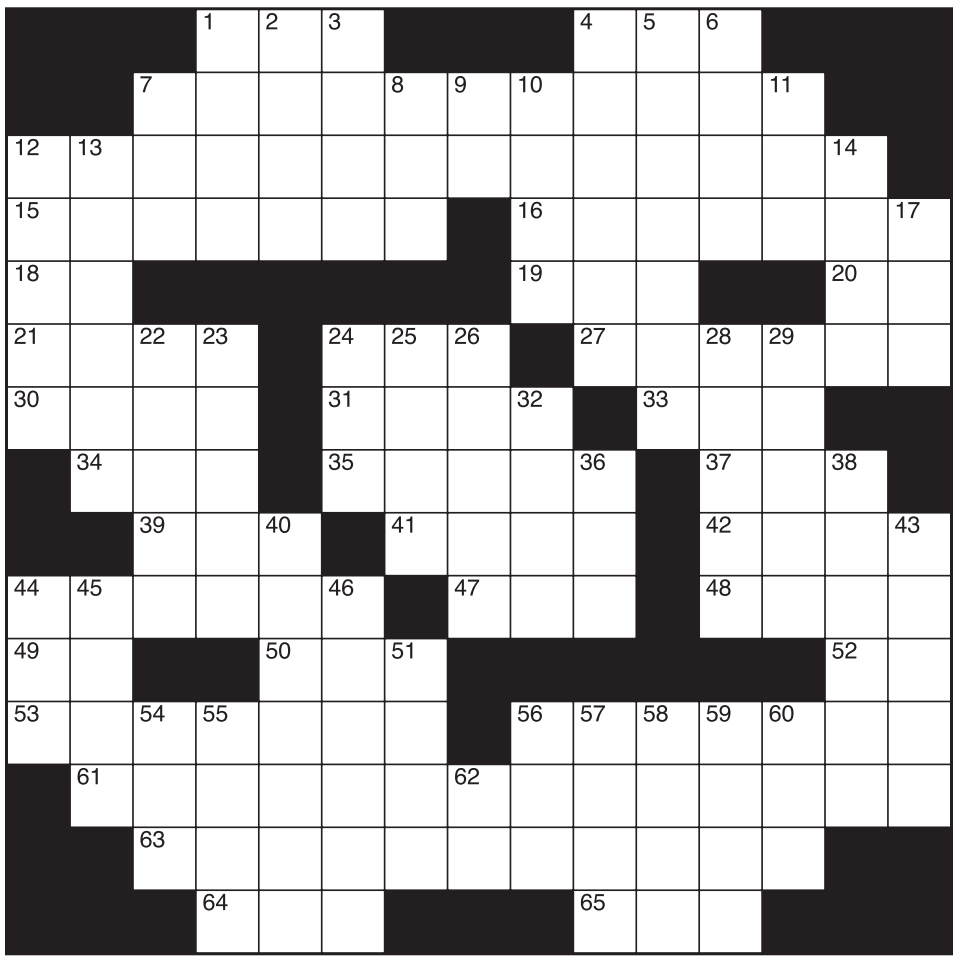

CLUES ACROSS
1. Helps little firms
4. Political action committee
7. Allowed
12. Olivia Colman played one
15. Open
16. He had a notable lamp
18. Promotional material
19. Domesticated animal
20. Larry and Curly's buddy
21. The best ever
24. TV network
27. Checked for
30. Dry or withered
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Dash
34. Fifth note of a major scale
35. A secret clique
37. Partner to cheese
39. __ school: where to learn healing
41. City in ancient Syria
42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
44. Established practice
47. Thanksgiving side dish
48. District in Peru
49. It's becoming more prevalent
50. State in India
52. Measure of illumination
53. Raised platform
56. Japanese warrior
61. R.L. Stevenson novel
63. Transitory
64. Advanced degree
65. Fiddler crabs

CLUES DOWN
1. Prevent from seeing
2. Czech city
3. __ and Andy, TV show
4. A young pig
5. Removed surgically
6. Covered with
7. Chest muscle (slang)
8. Nigerian City
9. Midway between south and east
10. A way to shut
11. Stop playing
12 Marshy places
13. Takes apart
14. Ten cents
17. A gesture of assent
22. Scent
23. Teletypewriter
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Hillside
26. Taxi driver
28. Semitic Sun god
29. Town in India
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on the __
38. Type of dance
40. Two letters, one sound
43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
44. Golf score
45. Mayhem
46. Drenched
51. River in northeastern Asia
54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
55. Part-time employee
56. A very large body of water
57. Aboriginal people of Japan
58. Millisecond
59. Forearm bone
60. Subway dweller
62. Royal Mail

Answers on page 10

Health unit urges parents to update immunization records

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR District Health Unit) is pleased to announce its continued progress on the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) to ensure children who attend school are up to date with their vaccinations or have a valid exemption on record with the Health Unit.

On March 4, the HKPR District Health Unit mailed first notices to parents of students in kindergarten (both Junior and Senior), Grade 2, and Grades 4-8, whose children are overdue for required immunizations under the ISPA or do not have a valid exemption on record. Suspension orders will be sent on April 29th with implementation of suspensions beginning May 13th.

"It's important to ensure children are up to date with all their vaccinations, particularly the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine," emphasizes Marianne Rock, Manager of the Health Protection Division at the HKPR District Health Unit. "With recently identified cases of measles in Ontario, it is imperative that children receive the MMR vaccine. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are required under the Immunization of School Pupils Act, in Ontario, with doses administered at 12-15 months and 4-6 years. Adhering to the vaccination schedule ensures optimal protection for our communities."

Parents/guardians are urged to act now to ensure their child's immunization records are up to date to avoid any disruption to their education. This may require scheduling a vaccination appointment with their family doctor or the Health Unit if they do not have a family doctor. This proactive approach will help ensure that students remain compliant with school immunization requirements for the 2023-2024 school year.

To ensure children's immunization records are current, parents and guardians are advised to take the following steps:

1. Check: Verify your child's immunization record for any missing vaccines by visiting the Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON) website.

2. Vaccinate: Arrange for your child to receive any missing vaccinations. This can be done by contacting your family doctor or if you do not have a family doctor the HKPR District Health Unit to schedule an appointment for vaccination or to obtain a valid exemption.

3. Update: Submit your child's updated immunization record to the HKPR District Health Unit using one of the following methods:

- Online through Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)
- By phone at 1-866-888-4577 x 1507
- By fax at 905-885-5352
- By email at immunization@hkpr.on.ca (please note that email submission requires consent for the transmission of personal and/or personal health information).

For more information or assistance with updating immunization records, please contact the HKPR District Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 x1507.

Submitted

Call for volunteers for Stanhope Soccer

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is currently seeking volunteer coaches to assist with this summer's Stanhope Soccer League.

The Stanhope Soccer League is a fun, non-competitive, skills-building league for children aged 4 to 11. Games take place on Tuesday evenings (6:30 to 7:30 p.m.) throughout July and August at the soccer fields behind the Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall at 1095 North Shore Road. This year's season will run from July 2 to August 20. Registration for players will open on April 15.

If you'd like to take a kick at coaching this season, or to learn more about the program, please email recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca or call 705-766-9968.

Submitted by
Township of Algonquin Highlands

HSA+D releases 2024 course calendar

Explore new skills, pursue a new passion or fine-tune your artistic talents at the Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD) this year.

HSAD's 2024 course calendar is out! Copies can be picked up at Fleming's Sutherland, Frost and Haliburton campuses. An online version can be found at flemingcollege.ca/school/haliburton-school-of-art-and-design/course-calendar. Registration opened March 1.

This year's calendar brings some big changes to programming and continuing education at HSAD.

There are new courses in video game design, improv comedy and jazz band. Book lovers can sign up for one of three courses celebrating the written word beginning in September.

Young artists can spend time in our renown studios learning glassblowing, blacksmithing and jewellery making in programs geared to teenagers.

HSAD now offers continuing education programs year-round, with courses and workshops to accommodate all work schedules.

Some continuing education programs have already begun, with classes running throughout the winter months. Wednesday evening courses run over a six-week period for those unable to take classes during the day. Saturday workshops focus on new techniques taught in one day.

HSAD is now offering open studio opportunities in glass and ceramics during the winter and spring months.

Full summer programming begins in June and runs until August. The summer months also feature HSAD's popular Wednesday evening art talks and Thursday evening entertainment in the Great Hall.

Submitted by
Haliburton School of Art + Design

Gooderham Music Festival acts announced

Country music star Genevieve Fisher is set to headline this year's Gooderham Music Festival on Saturday July 27, which will also feature local bands Gary and the Rough Ideas and Ragged Company. A new open mic session for local artists will kick off the day to make the most of emerging talent in the area.

Organized by the Gooderham Community Action Group, this free event will take place outdoors at the Robert McCausland Community Centre at the corner of Country Roads 503 and 507 in Gooderham. Further details on vendors and scheduling will be announced closer to the date.

Genevieve Fisher has earned seven female artist of the year nominations at the Country Music Association of Ontario music awards as well as numerous nominations for Single of the Year and Songwriter of the year.

Artists wishing to be considered for the open mic session should send an email to gcac503@gmail.com.

Submitted by
Gooderham Community Action Group

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTIFICATION DU PUBLIC

PROPOSED ROGERS 90 METER WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS GUYED TOWER with 5m OMNI ANTENNA

The proposed installation is composed of a 90-meter guyed telecommunications tower, with a 5m OMNI antenna on top. Installation includes the antennas, a lightning rod, and an obstruction light.

Location: Sumcot Trail, Harcourt Park
Coordinates: 45.118446° -78.230724°

Objective: To improve wireless coverage to your community (Harcourt Park) and to meet rising demands for wireless services.

Details: An equipment shelter will also be installed at the base of the proposed tower and the entire site will be surrounded by a security fence with a locked gated access point.

The public is invited to provide written comments by end of business day on **April 14th, 2024** to the contact information shown below. Please include a return address.

Tower Installation Project
Projet d'installation de communication sans fil
Reference: C8603 - Sumcot Rd @ Allen Lake
Rogers Communications Inc. – Contractor

Victoria McKay
16-225 Riddell St, Woodstock ON N4S 6N2
Email: j_mckay@rogers.com

ROGERS

EMPLACEMENT PROPOSÉ PAR ROGERS POUR L'IMPLANTATION D'UNE TOUR HAUBANÉE D'ENVIRON 90 MÈTRES DE HAUTEUR AVEC ANTENNE OMNI DE 5 MÈTRES

Le site de télécommunication proposé sera composé d'une tour de type haubané d'une élévation d'environ 90 mètres, avec une antenne OMNI de 5 mètres au sommet. L'installation comprend les antennes, un paratonnerre et un feu d'obstruction.

Lieu : Sumcot Trail, Harcourt Park
Coordonnées: 45.118446° -78.230724°

Objectif : Améliorer la couverture cellulaire dans votre secteur (Harcourt Park) et ainsi répondre à la demande sans cesse croissante pour les services sans fil.

Détails : Un cabinet d'équipements sera aussi aménagé à la base de la tour et l'ensemble du site sera ceinturé d'une clôture de sécurité et d'une entrée verrouillée.

Les citoyens sont invités à faire part de leurs commentaires, avant la fermeture des bureaux de Rogers le **14 avril 2024,** soit à l'adresse indiquée (avec une adresse de retour).

Land Use Authority Contact/
Coordonnées de l'autorité d'utilisation du sol

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jiles@dysartetal.ca

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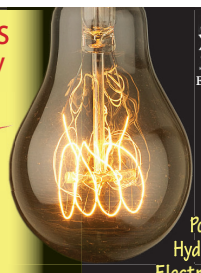

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Municipality of Dysart et al

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Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'A' or 'D' licence (manual) with 'Z' endorsement is required along with an acceptable abstract. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is $27.77 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. Pension and Benefits after a 6-month probationary period.

A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca/careers

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Sonja Marx, HR Manager: hr@dysartetal.ca

Closing date is 12:00pm on March 20th, 2024

** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. **

Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al

Roads Department Seasonal Employees

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of roads during summer months. Primary duties include, but are not limited to, traffic control, pothole patching and spray patching. Previous road maintenance and/or construction experience is considered an asset.

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A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:
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No Later Than 12:00 pm Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.

*** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.***

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If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at ***matt@onondagacamp.com***. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

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Expected Start date: April 1, 2024
Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary Range: Both Housekeeping/Laundry and Maintenance/Grounds keeping: $17.50 - $19.50 per hour based on experience. **Submit resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca**

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Married for more than 60 years, couples give advice on how others can do the same

BE MY VALENTINE
Our readers share some of their more intimate thoughts with romance in the air

THE ECHO

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Tuesday, February 13, 2001
Vol. 117 No. 44
$1 including GST

LEN PIZZEY/Echo

Jackrabbit grows in leaps and bounds

The popularity of cross country skiing in the Highlands seems guaranteed for years to come given the turnout at the weekly Jackrabbit ski lessons at Glebe Park every Saturday. The trails are busy every day of the week, and even the nights thanks to the lit trails.

Abundance of snow makes winter of 2000-2001 one to remember

ERIK MARTENSSON
Staff Reporter

"I remember the winter of 2000-2001..."

That will be the refrain for years to come in Haliburton County as the region is experiencing one of the heaviest snow accumulations in recent memory. Those who reminisce about this year's season will surely recall the continual dustings of snow and the December storm that left more than a half-metre of the white stuff blanketing the Highlands and necessitating a state of emergency call.

Environment Canada weather observer Phil Graham of Minden says a look back at the last decade of statistics shows that we are indeed experiencing an unusual winter. More than 200 centimetres of snow has fallen so far this season, easily eclipsing the 178 centimetre average of the last 10 years.

While you will find varying opinions on whether the mass of snow that's been dumped on the Highlands is a good or bad thing, businesses and those involved in outdoor recreational activities are singing its praises.

"We're selling right out of everything," says Dave Pentney of Minden Home Hardware. "Shovels and all that winter stuff you can't hardly keep, you just can't keep it."

Pentney notes that sales have been brisk and continue to this day.

"Snow rakes last a day, you can get 100 in here and they last a day. People phone constantly looking for them."

"Probably the hottest seller here would be roof rakes," says Doug Olliffe of Haliburton Home Hardware. "The shovels, roof rakes, salt, it's all selling well."

Business is so good in fact that both Home Hardware stores are

See **Hardware** *page 12*

Hodgson to lead province's new Smart Growth as the Minister of Municipal Affairs

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Chris Hodgson says his skills as a consensus builder will be put to good use as the Minister of Municipal Affairs as the provincial government embarks on one of its major infrastructure programs, Smart Growth.

"I'm excited about it," he said in a telephone interview on Thursday, the day Premier Mike Harris unveiled a major cabinet shuffle.

Hodgson says Harris asked him to lead the Smart Growth initiative, which has become the government's pet project.

"It touches people's lives directly," Hodgson says of the program's scope and importance, noting that Harris wanted someone "who could reach consensus" to spearhead it.

In essence, Hodgson will be working with municipal governments and, it's hoped, the federal government, to plan for future growth. Although the economy might be headed for a down turn, he says that makes it more important than ever to use the time to improve infrastructure and protect the people who might be hurt.

"You need growth to expand the safety net," he says.

But growth cannot happen unless the infrastructure is in place, and that's why the various levels of government need to be working together.

"How do we get a relationship that works so that we can grow together? It has to be partnerships in order for it to work. The best way to come up with a good plan is to consult and come up with a consensus...

"(With Smart Growth) there will be a bigger role for government and we have to get along and work together."

Hodgson noted that in his previous role as chairman of the management board, about 14 contracts with provincial workers were settled without strikes and numerous collective agreements were reached without controversy.

He was instrumental in developing new roles for race tracks, for which he was given special commendation by the racing industry.

He also helped Natural Resources Minister John Snobelen deliver the final Lands for Life policy, a resource protection program Hodgson started.

The Ontario Association of Municipalities, AMO, welcomes Hodgson's appointment.

Noting that Hodgson is a former reeve of Dysart et al and warden of Haliburton County, giving him an understanding of municipal concerns, president Ann Mulvale says "Mr. Hodgson was also well regarded by past AMO President Michael Power when Mr. Hodgson served as the Minister of Northern Development and

See **AMO** *page 12*

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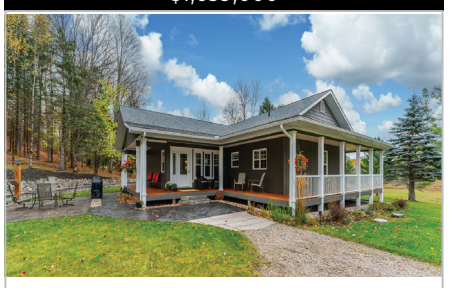

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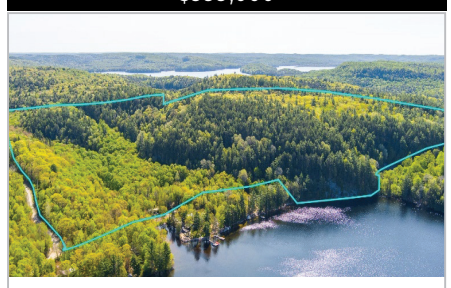

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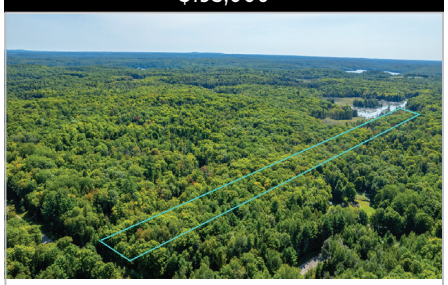

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LAKEFRONT · 2.61 ACRES

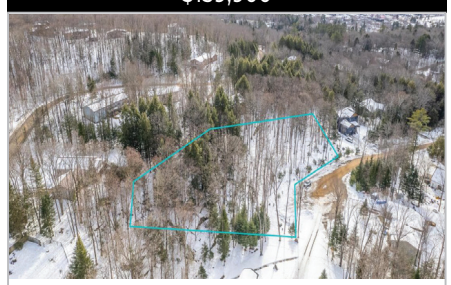
MLS# 40549856

GRACE RIVER ROAD
$179,000

RIVERFRONT · 1.23 ACRES

MLS# 40549838

LAKEVIEW ST.
$159,900



GREAT LOCATION · MUNICIPAL ROAD · 1.47 ACRES

MLS# 40538935

HWY 118
$479,000

MLS# 40543181

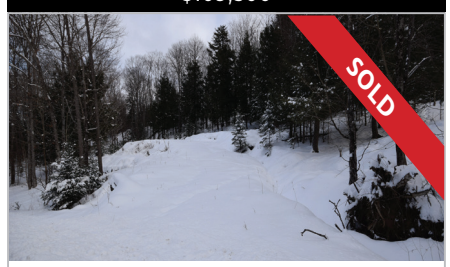
MOUNTAIN STREET
$628,000

MLS# 40529487

HALIBURTON LAKE
$875,000

MLS# 40534333

PINE AVENUE
$109,500



MLS# 40542276

NUMBERS KNOW & EXPERIENCE SHOWS

JAN. 1, 2023 - DEC. 31, 2023

Baumgartner Realty Group		Other Haliburton Brokerages
Days on Market		**Days on Market**
38 Days		49 Days
Average Sale Price	SOLD	**Average Sale Price**
$888,979		$794,371
List to Sale Price Ratio		**List to Sale Price Ratio**
99.80%		97.78%

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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www.haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

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